

Southwark Skills Strategy Delivery Plan – Context

Southwark Skills Strategy

The 2018-2022 Southwark Skills Strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2017, setting the vision of a high quality further education and skills offer in the borough that allows residents to gain the skills they need to succeed and responds to the needs of local employers. The Skills Strategy comprises three overarching goals:

- Residents have the opportunity to gain the type and level of skills they need to access local opportunities and progress in the labour market
- Employers invest in their workforce and have access to training provision that responds to their needs and allows them to recruit locally
- Employers and providers work collaboratively to develop a local skills offer that is responsive to the needs of the local economy

Southwark Skills Partnership

Though led by the council, the Skills Strategy is being delivered in partnership to ensure that there is a consistency in vision and ambitions across our borough, there is shared responsibility for delivery, and that best use can be made of resources. Anchor institutions are critical to the successful working of the Skills Partnership.

The Southwark Skills Partnership membership comprises employer's representatives, Further Education, Higher Education and other key strategic partners:

- Southwark College
- Morley College
- London South Bank University
- Kings College
- Globe Academy
- Southwark Works
- Southwark Construction Skills Centre
- Department for Work and Pensions
- BIDs: Better Bankside, South Bank BID, Team London Bridge
- British Land
- Lendlease
- Guys & St Thomas NHS Trust

Delivery Plan

A delivery plan was developed in 2018 to set out a range of actions to achieve the goals of the strategy. The plan is reviewed, updated and agreed by the Skills Partnership on an annual basis.

A comprehensive programme of work was in place at the beginning of 2020 to deliver these priorities but needed to be paused due to the impact of the pandemic. The Partnership met in May

2021 to review delivery and establish key priorities for an updated 2021-22 plan, based on emerging skills challenges and the changed labour market.

The Partnership agreed that the central objectives of the existing delivery plan remained broadly relevant but required a few adjustments to reflect the economic impact of the pandemic as well as the activity of partner organisations over the past year. The Partnership also identified green skills as a gap in the existing delivery plan. Based on this review, a revised delivery plan for 2020-21 was agreed by the Skills Partnership in July 2021.